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» travel p.18



England for
time-travellers

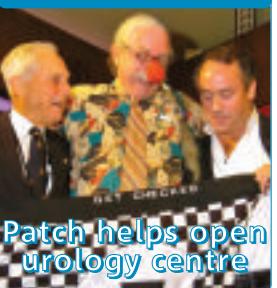
metro®

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

metronews.ca

Calgary

» local p.4



Patch helps open
urology centre

City gets moving on LRT leg

Revised plan to bury
west line at 31 Street
tags \$20M onto price

By NEIL MACKINNON
Metro Calgary

It's being trumpeted as a compromise; a positive step in the right direction.

The city revised the West Leg LRT plan yesterday, an alteration which

would see track running down Bow Trail from 19 Street to 31 Street, where it would head underground.

It reduces the length of elevated track but also would require rebuilding the roadway along the route while increasing construction time and cost of the project, initially pegged at \$700 million, by roughly \$20 million. The added cost is less than a plan proposed by Sunalta-Scarborough residents to bury the line at spots, coming in at \$150 million, said

Mayor Dave Bronconnier.

"The added expenditure is certainly worthy of council's consideration as it speaks directly to our openness to working with the communities affected," he said of the revision, which still has to be approved by council. "But it's a major piece of infrastructure and like all major projects, there are elements of inconvenience, this one isn't immune to that."

Best West LRT's Peter Rishaug said while the new plan is a "positive

environmental and sustainability reports promised by council more than a month ago to be done before he draws any serious conclusions.

"We're entirely supportive of the West LRT, we want it in our communities, we want discussion and we don't want to slow it down any more than is necessary for the proper, fiscally responsible work to be done," he said, noting he hasn't seen plans for the revision other than a line on a map. neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

» celeb buzz p.26

nixon on nuptials



Cynthia
mulling
marrying
girlfriend
to be a
rebel

» canada p.6

Helicopter crash
kills 4, including
pedestrian



High 18°
Low 8°
WEATHER p. 27



ROBIN KINISKI/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Soldier's wife braves loss

Nicole Starker, right, widow of Calgary medic Cpl. Michael Starker, killed in Afghanistan last week, and sister-in-law Carolyn Straub met with media yesterday and said the "overwhelming" support from Calgarians and Canadians has helped them through the loss. Story, page 3.



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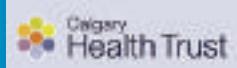
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local



On June 6, the Calgary Health Trust is hosting the first annual Goddess, an eating disorder prevention and promotion program for women. For more information please visit www.thetrust.ca.

METRO CALGARY



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Starker remembered

Strangers' support helps family of fallen medic

By KRISTA SYLVESTER
Metro Calgary

The family of a local medic and reservist killed last week in Afghanistan is thankful for the outpouring of support from across the country.

Widow Nicole Starker and sister Carolyn Straub both spoke of 36-year-old Michael Starker yesterday with warm thoughts and were thankful for the kind words of

strangers.

"The whole family has been strong for each other ... but the overwhelming support of Calgarians and Canadians has been overwhelming," Starker told reporters.

Starker and Straub remembered their fallen hero yesterday not with tears but with fond memories and sporadic smiles.

"He was a great man, a great husband, a great brother ... even though he was my little brother, I looked up to him and admired him ... he liked to tease me," his sister said. "It's affected our



Nicole Starker (right) shared fond memories of her husband, Cpl. Michael Starker, with media yesterday.

and walk out with many new friends, his sister added.

Perhaps most telling of the Starker family strength was the poise in which his widow and sister took the podium for reporters.

"I support Canada as a peacekeeping nation and what happened to Mike hasn't changed that for me," Starker told reporters.

The public funeral for the fallen soldier is Friday at 2 p.m. with the procession starting at the city hall and ending at the Roundup Centre.

-krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

family deeply. No parents should have to bury their child."

Starker was remembered as the kind of guy who could walk into a room of strangers

One more ray dies at Calgary Zoo

Latest death brings total to 35

By KRISTA SYLVESTER
Metro Calgary

Another stingray died yesterday and two more remain under close observation at the Calgary Zoo.

Zoo spokesperson Laurie Herron told Metro the ray keeper was concerned about one of the nine remaining rays, and unfortunately it wasn't able to recover. The latest death brings the toll to 35.

"He said there are two other rays that may not make it. They aren't doing too well," the somber Herron said.

Water results were expected back last night, but Herron and the zoo believe there was a sudden and toxic change in the water.

"Whether it was deliberate or accidental, we don't know yet, but we know there was a sudden change in the water. The toxicology results aren't expected back for two weeks.

climate to kill that many rays so suddenly."

The majority of the zoo's rays started acting erratically on Sunday and within two hours 26 of them had died, with another eight dying on Monday.

The toxicology results aren't expected back for two weeks.



Coors Light girls Ashley Dinh, left, and Tk Gaulin with Sunshine Village Manager, Sales & Media Mike Moynihan have some fun in the five tons of snow dumped on Stephen Avenue to promote their annual Slush Cup on May 19 at Sunshine Village in Banff.

A 5-ton snow dump

By NEIL MACKINNON
Metro Calgary

It was one of the five most concentrated dumps of snow in Calgary's history.

For the fifth year running,

Sunshine Village plopped five tons of snow on Stephen Avenue yesterday, a chilly reminder that while spring is certainly in the air and the grass is greening, the Banff-based ski resort has an abundance of snow still and ski conditions couldn't be better.

-neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca



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A University of Alberta study of 41 people from across the country showed that marijuana is being used 'responsibly' — in many cases to enhance such activities as watching TV, writing and sex. Dr. Geraint Osborne said the studied group was mostly middle class and 68 per cent held university degrees.

METRO CALGARY

Urology centre kickoff

Legendary doctor on hand to launch funding campaign

By KRISTA SYLVESTER
Metro Calgary

There was a clown nose and some fake teeth, but yesterday's announcement of Calgary's newest health facility is no laughing matter.

The legendary and endearingly memorable doctor Patch Adams was on hand as the Calgary Health Region launched the funding campaign for the Southern Alberta Institute of Urology, to be located at the Rockyview Hospital.

"I was going to give prostate exams, but they wouldn't let me," the eccentric doctor joked.



Daryl K. (Doc) Seaman, left, Hunter Campbell (Patch) Adams and Brett Wilson share a brief moment in boxers as they helped kick start a new urology health facility for Albertans yesterday.

as he donned red clown noses and fake teeth.

The real announcement was that of the new facility,

which will become Canada's most comprehensive urology centre, catering to urological conditions such as prostate

and kidney cancers.

"Urological problems can touch many Albertans and this facility will provide citizens with the urgent and critical care they need," CHR chief medical officer Dr. David Megrant told Metro.

According to Megrant, 2,400 men are affected with prostate cancer in Alberta annually and eight die from the disease each week.

Lead donors, and prostate cancer survivors, Daryl K. Seaman and W. Brett Wilson both contributed \$5 million each towards the \$28-million facility. A total of \$19 million has been raised to date.

"No one likes to talk about what goes on below the belt, but keeping these issues in the dark can be fatal," Wilson said.

-krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Grant helps students enter child care field

\$2,500 scholarship through class at two high schools

By ALICIA FOX
for Metro Calgary

eligibility

» Students who have taken the class through which the grant is being offered in past years can also apply.

ally the problem is space," said Pam Blake, who runs the course at Jack James School.

She says the grant would be great incentive for these kids to go on to post-secondary institutions since money is often an issue.

Dawn Delanay, communications manager for Calgary Child and Family Services, said the scholarship has very few stipulations except that the student must sign a return-service agreement depending on the amount of money they receive.

warehouse leak Hazmat called to investigate

'IRRITANT' Approximately 250 gallons of a "minor irritant" leaked from a cube tote in a warehouse in the 7700 block of 48 St SE yesterday. The Hazmat team was called to investigate and some employees of the business were treated by Calgary EMS.

The Fire Department said in a release that some of the product made its way to the sewer system and a vacuum truck was brought in to remove the liquid.

METRO CALGARY

Fuel prices pilfer city coffers

By NEIL MACKINNON
Metro Calgary

As gas prices inch higher, it's not only commuters being left with deflated wallets.

The City of Calgary, whose emergency services vehicles, transit and road crews guzzle back an average of 37-million litres a year, will see at least a \$5-million budget shortfall this year due to rising petrol costs, which have soared 13 cents since this time last year.

Still, while the cash crunch emanating from the pumps

« *Regardless of the price of gas, we're still going to flex around the city and transport our patients. »*

Calgary EMS's Paul Lapointe

may drive the city into its chequing-account overdraft, it's an unavoidable reality, especially for the city's EMS who rely almost solely on ground transport to save lives.

"Regardless of the price of gas, we're still going to flex around the city and transport

our patients," said Calgary EMS's Paul Lapointe. "Sure, from our end, we are concerned about the environment, we are concerned about the price of gas, but the well-being of our patients is our top priority."

Lapointe wasn't sure how much EMS doles out on fuel each year, but noted that, unless it's an extremely busy day, a policy requires fuel levels be kept at half "to make sure we can always make it where we need to be."

-neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

»news In Brief



» **BUST** The pot market took a hit yesterday as a pair of Chestermere marijuana growers were shutdown. Chestermere RCMP, along with numerous police counterparts, executed search warrants at 136 and 139 Springmere Cl., where they removed 405

plants as well as three large plastic bags and 12 smaller plastic bags, all ready for distribution. While no one was present at the 136 Springmere residence, an adult male and an adult female were taken into custody for questioning.

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Carry Drive Plaza
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RED DEER

Bower Place Shopping Centre
Parkland Mall

SPRUCE GROVE

Creekside Center

canada

Canada's last surviving WWI veteran, John Babcock, 107, who lost his citizenship when he moved to the U.S. nearly 90 years ago, has become a Canadian again.

SOURCE: CBC.CA


www.helpbuyinghomes.ca

Crash kills 4

Helicopter goes down in Cranbrook neighbourhood

A pedestrian was among four people killed when a helicopter crashed into a residential neighbourhood in Cranbrook, B.C., yesterday.

The helicopter with three people on board appeared to hover as if looking for a landing spot before it crashed onto a street and burst into flames, according to officials and witnesses.

Witnesses told local media the pedestrian appeared to

have been dragged by the helicopter as it crashed to the ground, and bypassers attempted to pull the person from the flames but failed.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known, but the weather conditions were described as good.

The Bell 206 helicopter was working under contract for BC Hydro, the provincial electrical utility, according to the Transportation Safety Board, which was sending investigators to the community about 200 km southwest of Calgary.

REUTERS

Cancer awareness **Striking a pose**



Kas Pavanantharajh, 19, left, Ashley Kroening, 25, centre, and Dennis Ryan, 26, strike a pose to raise awareness about cancers below the waist. The B.C. Cancer Foundation's Underwear Affair race is scheduled for July 12 and helps fund research into colorectal, bladder, prostate and ovarian cancers.

Sweet tooth, gene linked

If you have a sweet tooth, it won't be found amongst your molars or canines. It's inserted in your DNA instead.

Cake and cola and cookie lovers may well be able to blame their cravings on a common variant of a gene that controls the brain's ability to sense sugars in the body, a new University of Toronto study suggests. About one in five people has the variant.

The gene may also have implications for a person's risk of getting diabetes. People with the variant of the gene GLUT 2 consistently ate more sweets and drank more high-calorie drinks than those with the more common form of it, the study published today in the journal *Physiological Genomics* found.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

»news In Brief



» **POLITICS** Prime Minister Stephen Harper's lawsuit against the federal Liberal party is a deliberate attempt to keep opposition MPs from

exploring "alleged improprieties" within the government, Liberals say in their legal defence.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Canada, U.S. flouting law, Dallaire says

Liberal Senator Roméo Dallaire says the U.S. and Canada have descended to the level of the terrorists they pursue by flouting interna-

tional law and allowing Omar Khadr to be prosecuted for war crimes at Guantanamo Bay.

"They are operating on a

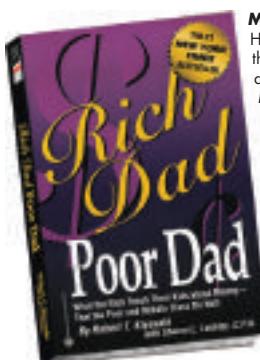
law of their own," Dallaire told the House of Commons foreign affairs human rights committee yesterday.

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A New York man who says he was denied a seat on a five-hour JetBlue flight and was instead told to "hang out" in the plane's bathroom has sued the airline for \$2 million, saying he suffered "extreme humiliation."

REUTERS

world

Death toll hits 13,000

Chinese officials fear the worst as 60,000 missing

The death toll in China's earthquake climbed past 13,000 yesterday and looked set to rise much higher after media said some 19,000 people were buried in rubble in just one area.

Rain and severed roads hampered rescuers in the mountainous area near the epicentre of Monday's 7.9-magnitude quake in the southwestern province of Sichuan, China's worst earthquake in three decades.

State media reported devastation as troops reached stricken villages near the epicentre in Wenchuan, a remote county cut off by landslides about 100 km northwest of the provincial capital, Chengdu.

Officials have said more powerful aftershocks could hit the region and mudslides may add to the toll where 60,000 people were unaccounted for.

More than 50,000 troops joined disaster relief efforts or were advancing to the



A Chinese rescue worker walks past destroyed houses and cars yesterday. A top disaster official said storms were hampering rescue efforts in the most devastated areas.



no foreign casualties

» China said there had been no reports of foreign casualties.

» Olympic officials assured foreigners China was safe. A minute's silence will start each stop of the domestic torch relay and celebrations will be scaled down.

area.

The Chinese air force said 6,500 troops were parachuted into hard-hit areas

where rain and clouds had prevented military helicopters from landing.

Analysts said they did not

expect serious economic effects from the disaster, but supply shortages could fuel inflation — already at a near 12-year high.

China's benchmark stock index ended down yesterday and trading in the shares of 66 companies was suspended.

REUTERS

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More than one-third of workers globally would choose their cellphone over their wallet, keys, laptop or digital music player if they had to leave the house for 24 hours and could take only one item, says a new survey. REUTERS

Rona's profit declines 90%

Rona Inc., the country's biggest Canadian-owned home improvement retailer, said severe winter storms, especially in Ontario and Quebec, contributed to a nearly 90 per cent decline in profits in the previous three-month period as construction and renovation activity stalled.

"The results for first quarter 2008 reflect the strong drop in consumer confidence in the

Alberta effect

» A temporary slowdown in demand for building materials in Alberta also hurt Rona's performance, the company said.

country's economic growth," said Rona's president and chief executive officer.

The company said it earned \$1 million, or 1 cent a share, in the three months ended March 30. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Feds OK Enbridge pipelines

Enbridge Inc. said yesterday the Canadian government has approved its planned Alberta Clipper and Southern Lights pipeline projects.

Enbridge, Canada's No. 2 pipeline firm, said Ottawa's

approval of the two lines will help with obtaining final clearance for construction from Canada's National Energy Board, though some approvals from U.S. regulators are still pending. REUTERS

»news In Brief

» **CRUDE** Oil surged to a record peak near \$127 US before settling at \$125.80 US after Iran said it was studying a plan to cut output. REUTERS



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sports

»sports In Brief

» **MLB** U.S. federal prosecutors have filed a new indictment against slugger Barry Bonds. Bonds was charged with 14 counts of lying to a grand jury and one count of obstruction that he denied knowingly taking illegal performance-enhancing drugs.

» **NBA** Richard Hamilton scored 31 points as the Detroit Pistons moved into the Eastern Conference finals for a sixth straight year by holding on for a 91-86 victory last night over the Orlando Magic to win the best-of-seven series 4-1. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

SCOREBOARD

NHL

CONFERENCE FINALS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

PHILADELPHIA VS. PITTSBURGH

Game 3 — Last night
Pittsburgh 4 Philadelphia 1

Game 4 — Tomorrow

Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 5:30

(Pittsburgh leads series 3-0)

“if necessary”

WESTERN CONFERENCE

DALLAS VS. DETROIT

Game 4 — Tonight

Detroit at Dallas, 6

“Game 5 — Saturday

Dallas at Detroit, 11:30

(Detroit leads series 3-0)

“if necessary”

NBA

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

BOSTON VS. CLEVELAND

Game 5 — Tonight

Cleveland at Boston, 6

Game 6 — Friday

Boston at Cleveland, 6

(Series tied 2-2)

DETROIT VS. ORLANDO

Game 5 — Last night

Detroit 91 Orlando 86

(Detroit wins series 4-1)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

DETROIT VS. ORLANDO

Game 5 — Last night

Detroit 91 Orlando 86

(Detroit wins series 4-1)

L.A. LAKERS VS. UTAH

Game 5 — Tonight
Utah at L.A. Lakers, 8:30

Game 6 — Friday

(Series tied 2-2)

NEW ORLEANS VS. SAN ANTONIO

Game 5 — Last night

New Orleans 101 San Antonio 79

Game 6 — Tomorrow

(New Orleans leads series 3-2)

(“if necessary”)

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Cleveland 4 Oakland 0

Baltimore 5 Boston 4

Tampa Bay 2 N.Y. Yankees 1 (11 ings)

Toronto 5 Minnesota 3

Texas 5 Seattle 2

Kansas City 3 Detroit 2

Chicago Sox at L.A. Angels

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Philadelphia 5 Atlanta 4

N.Y. Mets 6 Washington 3

Cincinnati 4 Florida 3

San Diego 4 Chicago Cubs 3

Milwaukee 5 L.A. Dodgers 3

Pittsburgh 8 St. Louis 4

Arizona 8 Colorado 4

Houston at San Francisco

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Seattle at Texas, 12:05

Boston at Baltimore, 1:05

Oakland at Cleveland, 5:05

N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay, 5:10

Toronto at Minnesota, 6:10

Detroit at Kansas City, 6:10

Chicago Sox at L.A. Angels, 8:05

Atlanta at Philadelphia, 5:05

Washington at N.Y. Mets, 5:10

Florida at Cincinnati, 5:10

San Diego at Chicago Cubs, 6:05

L.A. Dodgers at Milwaukee, 6:05

Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 6:15

Colorado at Arizona, 7:40

Houston at San Francisco, 8:15

NATIONAL LEAGUE

AT QUEBEC CITY

Russia vs. Switzerland, 11

Sweden vs. Czech Republic, 5:15

AT HALIFAX

Canada vs. Norway, 1:30

Finland vs. U.S., 5:15

NLL

CHAMPION'S CUP

Saturday

Portland at Buffalo, 5:30



Former Detroit Red Wings star Steve Yzerman, left, boxer Lennox Lewis and speedskater Marc Gagnon are among this year's class of inductees, announced yesterday, for Canada's Sports Hall of Fame.

METRO CALGARY

Pens close in on final

Pittsburgh uses defence to take commanding lead

PENGUINS 4 FLYERS 1

Marian Hossa scored twice, including the game-winner, as the Pittsburgh Penguins topped the Flyers 4-1 in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals last night in Philadelphia.

Ryan Whitney and Ryan Malone also lit the lamp for the Penguins, who improved to 11-1 in the postseason and are one win away from reaching the Stanley Cup Final for the first time since 1992.

Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 17-of-18 shots to record the win.

R.J. Umberger tallied for the Flyers, who are facing an 0-3 series deficit for the first time since falling to the Detroit Red Wings in a four-game Cup Final sweep in 1997.

Martin Biron surrendered three goals on 24 shots.

Game 4 is slated for tomorrow in Philadelphia. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Flyers centre Mike Richards is checked hard by Pittsburgh Penguins star Sidney Crosby last night during Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals in Philadelphia.

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Expert dispels maple myths

Baseball's Battle of Bats starts next week. That's when major-league executives will formally ask players to stop stepping to the plate with maple bats. The execs will ask them to use ash bats instead.

The requests, of course, will be denied by the players' association since nearly half the hitters in MLB — including the Blue Jays' Vernon Wells — prefer maple. It's been this way since Ottawa manufacturer Sam Holman first introduced maple bats to sluggers such as Joe Carter and Barry Bonds late last decade. Many feel maple bats are harder than ash bats and enhance their power and hitting abilities.

As reported here yesterday, however, MLB wants to abolish maple bats because of concerns that they're shattering too frequently and endangering lives.

What we didn't mention yesterday is that a researcher hired by MLB has found that maple is actually no better for batters than ash.



YORK REPORT

MARTY YORK

marty.york@metronews.ca

“The two woods are essentially the same at bat-speeds,” said Jim Sherwood of the Baseball Research Centre at the University of Massachusetts. “Maple has no advantage in getting a longer hit over an ash bat.”

Sherwood also discovered that, while ash bats crack, maple bats snap, causing sharpened barrels to fly often and unpredictably.

Armed with Sherwood's information, MLB will tell the union that safety should come first and that maple bats must go.

“We'll meet on this,” union chief Don Fehr acknowledged. “We'll look at it in good faith.”

Yeah, right. This is a battle that'll become a war.

» Snicker over this tidbit if you'd like, (although it's really no funnier than the preseason prediction by analyst/homer Rance Mulliniks that the woebegone Jays would win the World Series this year): A source hears manager John Gibbons gets axed soon and replaced by — brace yourself — ex-skipper Cito Gaston, who'll try to pass on his hitting wisdom ... In Florida, the Tampa Bay Rays are for real, for sure, but the Marlins? Not so much. They're winning, granted, but only three of their victories in the season's first quarter were against above-.500 teams, and they're 8-1 against the hapless Washington Nationals ... The Nats were so elated with their 10-4 victory over the Mets Monday that “they were cheerleading in the dugout like a bunch of softball girls,” according to New York pitcher Nelson Figueroa.

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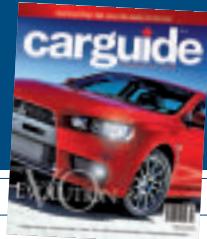
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No compromise convertible

Mazda MX-5 fun
for all seasons

By B. MC LAUCHLAN
for Metro Calgary

Our first thought when we clapped eyes on the tin-top version of the Mazda MX-5 was a very practical one. The heady charms of warm weather open-air motoring are a given, but how will this convertible with a power, folding hardtop fare against the freeze-unfreeze-refreeze of our winter climate? How good will this two-seater really be at keeping its driver and passenger warm?

The answer is very well, as a matter of fact. All the wind-in-your-face fun is still there but even the tail end of one of the harshest winters in recent memory couldn't dampen our enthusiasm for this little charmer.

Mazda has done something quite remarkable with the design of the MX-5 PRHT (Power Retractable Hard Top) by designing a fully powered retractable metal hardtop that stores away into the exact same space that the cloth roof would — without nibbling into precious cargo space. Oh, and the whole shebang only added 40 kg to the MX-5's already slender waistline.

The two-piece top attaches with the same single latch as the standard MX-5's cloth top, and two buttons



The MX-5 is still one of the world's best handling cars; the PRHT simply allows you to enjoy its wonderful attributes and grin-generating dynamics year round.

2008 Mazda MX-5 PRHT GX

- Type: Compact 2-pass roadster RWD
- Price: \$31,390
- Engine: 2.0L L4 DOHC
- HP: 166 @ 6,700 rpm
- Torque: 140 @ 5,000 rpm

Highlights:

- Driving experience
- Power hardtop makes it a four-season fun house

now flank the emergency flashers on the dash to raise or lower the roof. The procedure is elegant and simple. Fast too, as the whole operation takes about 12 seconds.

This brings the ham-handed soft top design of its main market rivals into even sharper focus; the Saturn Sky and its Pontiac Solstice corporate cousin still have the most frustrating convertible storage system, a 10-step program of frayed nerves, pinched fingers and silent curses.

Back to the MX-5 ... the good news is that the PRHT

treatment is available right across the model range, from the base GX (\$28,195) through the GS (\$31,350) to the top-level GT (\$34,500). The better news is that it costs a very reasonable \$2,195 — a lot less than a good winter beater, safety inspection and extra insurance.

Plus, the PRHT adds some nice visual touches like chrome on the headlight bezels, front grille surround and the outer door handles.



Two buttons now flank the emergency flashers on the dash to raise or lower the roof.

On the road, the PRHT is a pure joy to drive. Power is good but not overwhelming. Handling is exceptional, the engine loves to be revved and the short-throw shifter is a pleasure to guide through the gears.

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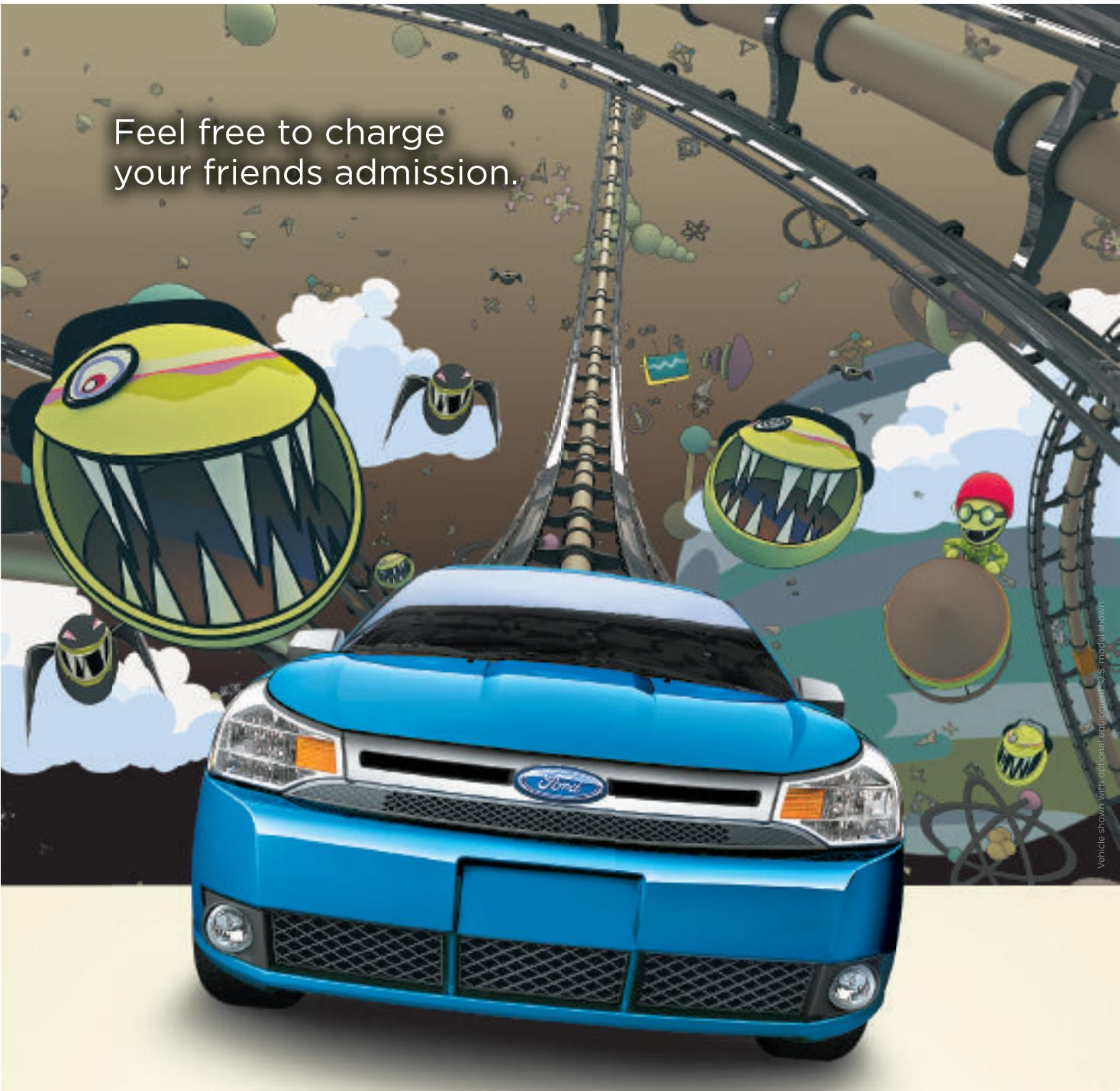
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Rating Rogue

Driving event puts compact crossover to test

Six Canadian couples, representative of the new Nissan Rogue's target market, experienced what professional auto writers take for granted recently, when they were invited to drive the compact crossover and give their impressions of it.

Their 'Rogue Weekend' began with an advanced driving course at the PMG Technologies skidpad near Montréal, and concluded with an extensive two-day test drive to Ottawa over a variety of back roads and highways in real winter conditions.

It began to snow as the group arrived at PMG Tech-

nologies where they were met by professional racing driver-turned-instructor, Guy Lahaie of Trois Rivières, Que.

Lahaie's mission: To teach the group advanced driving skills with the focus on skid control, proper use of the anti-lock braking system, and collision avoidance techniques.

As the snowfall intensified, the drivers took turns through the various courses and with each consecutive pass, their confidence and skill levels rose.

From Blaineville, the group motored to Château Montebello where they anticipated a challenging drive to Ottawa the next morning through spectacular Laurentian Mountains scenery.

Sean Kavanaugh of Burling-



wheel's wide range of position settings, large print and easily identifiable switches and controls, while his wife, Allison, especially liked the heated seats and seatbacks.

Six-foot tall Ally Isted, also of Burlington, found entering and exiting the vehicle "extremely easy."

Everything important was easily within reach for Eva Choe of Toronto, who liked the seat warmers and the large, round knobs for the heating and air conditioning.

All around visibility was "quite good," said Mat Rodriguez, though the view directly rearward was restricted by the "smallish back window," a point noted by more than half of the drivers.

Tammy Chan found the brakes quick to respond, and weren't too touchy. "The steering wheel felt like a true extension of my arms," she said.

Oscar Valencia, who moved to Canada from Colombia nine years ago, noted that a big part of driv-

ing in Canada "is doing it in snowy conditions, and this car responded perfectly."

In the end, the Rogue received high marks all around, with 75 per cent of the drivers saying it exceeded their expectations, and the remaining quarter saying it met theirs.

Thirty-three per cent (four drivers) rated the Rogue as "excellent" value for money and 50 per cent viewed it as "above average." Two drivers called it "good" value.

FROM THE EDITORS OF CARGUIDE

Q&A with Nissan Canada president, Mark Grimm

» **CARGUIDE:** What sets the new Nissan Rogue apart from the small crossover-utility segment?

MARK GRIMM: Rogue answers consumers' demands for an expressively styled, small crossover that offers the utility they need and value they require. It looks and feels like a premium vehicle, yet Rogue's low price and high fuel efficiency make it affordable to buy and inexpensive to operate. Rogue's combination of style, versatile utility and on-road performance make it a superior choice.

» **CG:** What are the vehicle's main selling points?

MG: The Rogue's exterior was designed to present an image of modern sophistication ... With its driver-focused cockpit, combined with state-of-the-art technology, like intuitive All-Wheel Drive, Xtronic CVT, Bluetooth hands-free phone system and paddle shifters, it will shift the way customers think about small crossovers.

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NEWS CANADA

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Condo fees: What should you expect?

All developments are not created equal

By DARREN KRAUSE
Metro Calgary

You have a love/hate relationship with them.

On one hand they are an expense over and above your regular mortgage or rent. But, they do provide you with a certain amount of luxury: Snow-free sidewalks, yard maintenance, maybe even heated parking — and it creates a pool of money for maintenance, so you don't necessarily have to fund major repairs on your own.

That's right. We're talking about the condo fee. But it's important to dispel the com-

mon myth that there is a 'reasonable' amount for such fees. According to Sandra Johnston of Insight Condo Services Inc. in Calgary, comparing condo fees from one complex to the next is virtually impossible — all developments are not created equal. "There is no norm," said Johnston, noting that everything from the type of siding to roofing and the age of a building are all factors that determine a condo-fee. "It will depend on all of the maintainable items each condominium has."

It makes sense, too.

Condo fees differ from place to place because the determined cost is relative to the amount of maintenance required and any projected repair or replacement costs.



Know what you are paying for with your condo fees.

For example, it costs less to maintain a brick exterior than it does a wood exterior that has been painted. Older buildings could have future

upgrades too.

In some cases, Johnston said, you can expect certain things from your fees. She said, for example, fees for

apartment-style condo should include heating, water, sewage and common property insurance. It will also likely include administration fees, legal fees and the cost to have an annual audit done.

You will also see the condo complex reserve fund — set up to defray the cost of major renovations.

"It's important to always have enough money to complete the work that needs to be done," said Johnston, noting that condo boards don't want to apply a special assessment to condo owners for repairs unless they have to. Johnston underscores the importance for condo-buyers to do their homework prior to making a purchase.

Asking for company financials, budgets and future

repair or maintenance schedules of the condo complex is critical. This may give you clues to the operation of the condominium corporation.

"It just makes sense. In order to protect your investment you really need to do your homework."

doing your homework

- » Ask for financials of your condo company.
- » Find out what their reserve fund is at.
- » Ask if there are any pending maintenance or upgrading plans.
- » Ask for an audited statement to find out where reserve money has been spent in the past.
- » Determine what services are reasonable to expect in the condo fee.

Calgary a leader in green

By KRISTA SYLVESTER
Metro Calgary

Going 'green' in the city has never been hipper, but soon home buyers won't have a choice.

Calgary is a leader in environmental condos and homes, according to the Built Green Society in Canada (BGSC), and they continue to set the pace for the rest of the country.

"Calgary was the first major city in North America to offer building permits rebates to builders offering green initiatives," BGSC spokesperson Holly Chabidon told Metro. "It's really cool."

Chabidon said though it is more of a push from the industry which is heavily supported by all levels of government.

"Consumers don't really have a choice. I think it's been a big push to have green-friendly homes and condos because the builders really believe in them but not so much because consumers asked for them."

She said one of the biggest green supporters in the city is



Jayman, who according to the BDSC website has more than 3000 green friendly homes and condos registered.

"It's just so important, actually it's essential. Calgary is a great city and everyone has taken the green initiative very seriously, and it shows," Chabidon said.

Dave MacKillop, manager of the Alastair Ross Technology Centre told Metro while Calgarians are open to the idea of green roofs and buildings, the job isn't done yet.

"By no stretch is Calgarians' interest a landslide, but the momentum is there and the interest is growing," he said.

MacKillop said an important partnership with the Calgary Zoo coming up in June might help garner the interest needed.

The Alberta Prairie Green Roof Conference and Tour takes place on the weekend of June 9th and the zoo will host the informative event.

"We are definitely in a place right now where green buildings are important, and green roofs are a part of that. We just have to keep it going."

Torode Realty even designed a green rooftop patio for their three-tower condo development ArriVa, in Victoria Park.

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A report by CB Richard Ellis says the vacancy rate for class AA office space in Calgary declined from 1.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2007 to 0.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2008. The overall vacancy rate in the downtown, however, nudged up slightly.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

De-cluttering means de-stressing

Do you often spend hours looking for things? Have you ever discovered a box full of items that you haven't looked at, or needed, in years?

Do you avoid certain dark corners of your home or garage because you just can't deal with the mess?

Are you moving in the next few weeks and want to avoid moving carloads of stuff you don't need?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, don't stress out, the steps below will help you reach junk-free nirvana.

sort, separate and store

The first step is the most difficult and time-consuming — sort through the mess and



separate it into three categories: Stuff you don't need anymore, junk you never needed in the first place and useful items that you forgot you had.

give useful items a home

Now that you know what items you want to keep, store them in suitable containers that you've clearly marked with a label. This is where a good electronic labeler comes in. Electronic label makers date back almost 20 years to when Brother introduced their

popular P-touch brand. Today they can be purchased in most office supplies stores, or online at places like www.brother.ca. "We encourage our customers to use colour coding to organize multiple storage boxes," says Marc Ruel, product specialist at Brother Canada. "It may

seem strange, but they report that they get addicted to their labelers." However you do it, creating a system that works for you will make it that much easier to stick to.

So now that you know what you've got, where are you going to put it?

Resist the temptation to put all those boxes back in the same shelf in the garage; give them proper homes instead. The best way to determine where something should go is to put it near similar items. Stray tools go near screws, bolts and hardware. Gardening gloves and tools go near seed leftovers and bulbs. Camping gear? Meet fishing gear.

If you're like most people, you'll be left with all sorts of things you just don't need. Now's the time to join forces with your neighbours and

have that massive garage sale you've been putting off for years. An electronic labeler will come in handy here too.

donate what you don't need

With so many items for sale, buyers will appreciate that your items are all clearly price-tagged — negotiable of course.

Everything that is left over goes to the Salvation Army or your local thrift shop.

Nothing against yoga, massage or long walks in the park, but if you really want to de-stress, de-clutter: Nothing clears the mind like clearing the pile of junk that's accumulated in your cupboard.

NEWS CANADA

Advertising Feature

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Market begins to cool

Price wane makes it a buyer's market

It's official. The hot real estate market Calgary enjoyed for so long is losing momentum.

While the days of prosperity are certainly not over, the scramble for the precious commodity known as a single-family dwelling is cooling down and prices are no longer seeing the drastic hikes that they saw two years ago.

According to a new report released by Statistics

Canada on Monday, housing prices across Canada rose only 0.2 per cent in the year-over-year analysis between February and March, mostly due to the prices waning in Alberta.

Between March 2007 and March 2008, Calgary's housing market prices rose 5.3 per cent, just slightly higher than the rise between February 2007 and February 2008, which hit 5.2 per cent.

Not only are the prices coming down, but availability is going up, which makes the market much more favourable for buyers than it has been for the past

few years.

Although Alberta in general is still seeing increases in housing market values, those increases are also less than the province of such promise was seeing.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba, on the other hand, are experiencing the same sort of boom Alberta saw in recent years.

For the 11th month in a row, Saskatoon saw the highest increase in housing prices, packing on a 46.2 per cent year-over-year increase in last March and 2.1 per cent between Feb. and March.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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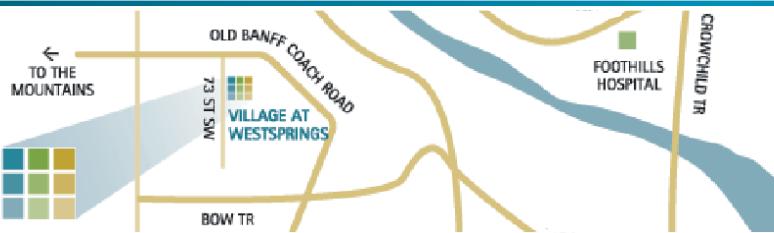
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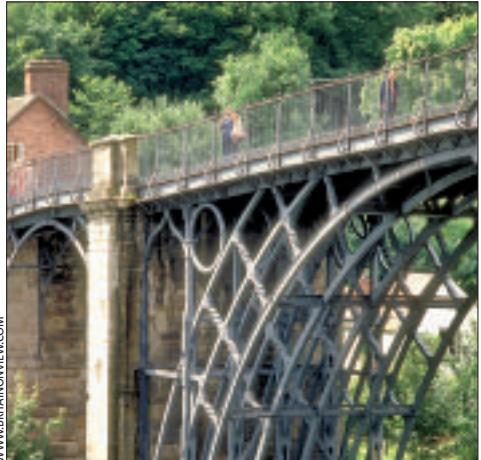


One&Only luxury resorts can now boast their very own line of espadrilles by revered designer Christian Louboutin. The \$366 shoes will be sold at their glamorous beach properties in Mauritius, the Bahamas, Mexico, Dubai and the Maldives.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Travel back to the revolution



Left, the Iron Bridge was first opened in 1781. Right, blacksmithing at Blists Hill.

Old English town held reins to industry in 1800s

By EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News

If you have ever wondered what it would have been like to live in Britain during the Industrial Revolution, then visit Blists Hill Victorian Town in Shropshire, England.

You can truly step back in time at Blists Hill. It's just one of nine museums in the Ironbridge area — including the Jackfield Tile Museum, Coalport China Museum, Museum of Iron and the Iron Bridge itself, the world's first cast iron bridge, built in 1779 over the River Severn — that showcase the best of the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. Located in the heart of England, the area is considered so historically important that it is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Each building in the Victorian town dates from the 1800s and has been carefully transported to the village and reconstructed brick by brick to recreate a small industrial town toward the end of

need to know

» **Blacksmithing Experience Days** cost £100 (about \$200 Cdn) per person including all materials, a pub lunch and refreshments. Visit ironbridge.org.uk.

» **Where to stay:** The White Hart, Ironbridge. A spacious pub with stylish contemporary décor. For more, go to thewhitehartironbridge.com.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Queen Victoria's reign.

Guides in costume and in character breathe life into these immaculately recreated shops, workplaces and homes, offering an astounding insight into what life was like more than 100 years ago.

Turn your pounds into shillings in the Victorian Lloyds bank and leave contemporary England behind.

Treat yourself to a bag of candy from the sweet shop, buy some freshly baked bread and see what's on offer in the grocers, chemist, candle makers and printers for all your turn of the century needs.

At lunchtime, you can send your children off to the school, where they will be

taught a lesson, Victorian-style, with chalk and blackboard, by a strict and smartly-dressed head teacher. Meanwhile, you can nip off for a pint of traditional ale in the wood-panelled Victorian pub, where the locals gather round the piano for an old-fashioned singalong.

If you want you can even be Victorian and actively participate in the experience. Enrol in the blacksmithing course — the wrought iron works at Blists Hill is the only working iron foundry in Europe — and you'll be taught how to heat iron and steel until it is white hot before hammering it into shape on the anvil. Using traditional blacksmithing skills you'll be taught how to make objects including a fire poker, leaf key ring and coat hook.

Despite the hard labour, it's a course people find creative, inspiring and rewarding. As most of us urban types don't actually get to make anything after school age — we just buy things then throw them away — most people find it satisfying to put time into producing something useful and durable in the blacksmithing course.



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Break-dancing in Greece

Family-friendly five star Sani Resort in Halkidiki, Greece is offering teenagers a free break-dancing camp to keep them entertained throughout their holidays. Professional breakers will transform regular 12-17 year olds into "b-

METRO WORLD NEWS

Escape to Adventure
with the
East Coast Sailing Contest

Have you ever dreamed of going to sea on a tall ship sailing expedition? Departing the bustling seaport city of Halifax, the lucky winner and their guest will board the Tall Ship Caledonia for a 7 day adventure along the stunning Nova Scotia coastline. Explore white sand beaches and historic seaports, such as Lunenburg and Mahone Bay — all from the newest cruise operator in Canada, Canadian Sailing Expeditions, where luxurious hospitality and fine cuisine await. It's a total prize package valued at \$10,000.

Each day, until June 4th, look for one of these icons among the pages of Metro. Then log on to experiencehalifax.com/metro and tell us which one you saw for your chance to win. Once you have entered the contest check out the terrific line up of festivals taking place this season in Atlantic Canada's Entertainment Capital — Halifax!

Log on to experiencehalifax.com/metro for your chance to win.



Volunteer on vacation

Voluntourism gives foreigners a chance to help

In our world of beaten-track travel, many tourists are looking for alternative holiday experiences where they can learn about local culture while giving back. "Voluntourism," as it is now known, is a growing trend that blends volunteer work with travel. It's a chance for foreigners to pitch in, get their hands dirty and help the local community while on holiday.

No matter what your interest, there are volunteer opportunities in all parts of the world. From environmental protection to animal rights, archeological digs to organic farming, there's something for everyone.

Here are a few interesting opportunities to earn some Karma credits:

COMMUNITY CARE

Global Volunteers is a non-profit, non-religious organization specializing in short-term volunteer placements across 21

countries. Anyone can participate in their projects, regardless of skill or profession. Care for orphaned children in Romania, build playgrounds in Jamaica,



THE TRAVEL JUNKIE
JULIA DIMON
www.thetraveljunkie.ca



A growing number of tourists interested in giving back to the local community are opting for volunteer-based holidays.

help the elderly in the Cook Islands or work on an organic coffee co-operative in Costa Rica. Visit www.globalvolunteers.org.

ANIMAL AID

PRETOMA, a non-governmental organization (NGO), offers volunteer placements aimed at protecting endangered sea turtles. From June to December, along the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica, tourists can take part in hands-on conservation programs that monitor and secure turtle nesting beaches. Prices range from

\$330 a week to \$970 a month (they recommend at least two weeks), with accommodations in cabins, hotels or homestays. Visit www.tortugamarina.org

HANDS-ON

Grab your hammer and tool belt! Habitat for Humanity's "global village" program has volunteers labouring to build affordable housing for disadvantaged people around the world. Teams of volunteers are sent on trips of one to three weeks long. Fees (which include food, accommodation and ground transportation) vary according to location. From Paraguay to Tajikistan, Cambodia to our own Canadian back yards, this non-profit initiative is creating change, one nail at

a time. Apply for upcoming trips online at www.habitat.ca.

CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Offering experiences from two to 12 weeks, Cross-Cultural Solutions places volunteers in a variety of programs: Promote female empowerment in rural Tanzania, work with kids in Morocco or teach English in China. According to their website, their philosophy of sustainability ensures that 90 per cent of the fees go to the volunteer program, not to exorbitant overhead costs. Visit www.crossculturalsolutions.org

Freelance writer Julia Dimon is editor of *The Travel Junkie* and host of *Word Travels*, a new reality TV-series to be broadcast on OLN in 2008. Contact her at www.thetraveljunkie.ca.

julia's tips

» Guy Hobbs, author of *Hands-On Holidays* (a comprehensive guide book to volunteer opportunities) offers the following advice:

» When you're deciding between organizations, be sure to get a personal recommendation. An organization that is sure of the quality of its projects will willingly put you in touch with former participants for the real low-down on what life is like at the project.

» Try to seek out organizations that work with just a few partners. Those that offer hundreds of placements in many countries are unlikely to have visited and vetted every single project.

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METROWORLD NEWS



Travellers boarding the Eurostar train to Paris should not be alarmed to see a bird of prey swooping across London's St. Pancras station. London & Continental Railways has introduced a team of Harris Hawks to scare off the many pigeons that would otherwise pollute the new station.

Skeena's scenic spectacle

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on the east side of the Rockies, and Prince Rupert, on the Pacific coast, close to Alaska. A night in Prince George, in the hotel of your choice, is part of the itinerary.

"There are more mountains and wildlife to see on this route than any other route in Canada," said Macaraeg.

Economy class is available year-round, and Totem Deluxe (first) class is available from May 14 to Sept. 30, 2008. For more information visit www.viarail.ca.

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how to improve tactics and be a better team player while their parents languish round the pool at this luxurious resort. Visit www.ghotw.com.

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entertainment

Megan Mullally, left, has signed on to play Alicia Silverstone's mom in ABC's new fall comedy *Bad Mother's Handbook*.

TVGUIDE.COM

legal

Farina apologizes for gun arrest

PEOPLE Dennis Farina has issued a public apology following his arrest for felony weapons possession charges, *imdb.com* reports.

The actor was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport on Sunday morning after a loaded gun was found in his briefcase. He was released on Sunday night after posting \$35,000 US bail.

"I apologize to anyone and everyone that I have caused any embarrassment or inconvenience to," Farina said. "It is my own stupidity to find myself in this ... situation."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

more online

» For coverage of last night's episode of *American Idol*, go to metronews.ca.

Bye-bye bachelorhood

Grant's fiancée wins him over by being herself

By SANDY CAETANO
for Metro Calgary

The age-old advice of just being yourself certainly worked in the case of Shayne Dahl Lamas.

The 22-year-old actress captured the heart of Matt Grant, the bachelor on *The Bachelor: London Calling*, and the couple are now engaged.

"She's just so kind and caring and considerate about all her friends and family — she's also very confident and strong herself," said Grant, a global financier from London. "It's quite rare in

Britain to have that balance without being arrogant and cocky and full of yourself."

Unlike the last season of *The Bachelor*, where the man looking for love ended up not choosing anyone, this season's suitor popped the question to his special lady.

Grant proposed to Lamas on Monday night's finale of the reality show with a 2.85-carat Tacori platinum and diamond eternity ring (an estimated value of \$60,000 US) — and she said yes.

All throughout *The Bachelor: London Calling*, Grant, the first-ever British Bachelor has let the world know he's crazy about American women.

Lamas, the daughter of actor Lorenzo Lamas, proved to Grant she was the



Shayne Dahl Lamas



Matt Grant

real deal by being herself every moment they were together, be it alone or surrounded by the other women vying for a piece of his heart. The 22-year-old

actress also endured a dirty and physical game of rugby with the other contestants in the bid to gain his love.

So what was it that caught her eye besides

Grant's looks and charm?

"First of all he's handsome, and if you ever are in his presence his aura and his presence is just unbelievable, he's just amazing," said Lamas. "Just being in the same room with him, I mean his friends even say the same thing — and he's very tall, too (6-foot-5), that's great for short women because they can wear high heels."

The couple plans on travelling a bit, and having homes in Los Angeles and in London, since they each have family in both places.

As for a wedding date, nothing has been set. Grant and Lamas want to spend some time getting to know each other better before tying the knot.



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Madonna, left, will not attend the final court ruling on her request to adopt a Malawian child because she is busy with other engagements. The High Court is expected to approve Madonna's bid to adopt David Banda, 2, at a final session tomorrow.

REUTERS

Music saga lands 30 years later

17-part series on musical evolution finally on DVD

By RICK McGINNIS
for Metro Calgary

"You doing anything useful these days?" These were the words that inspired documentary director Tony Palmer to spend two years of his life, travelling all over the world, to make *All You Need Is Love*, a 17-part series on the history of popular music that's only now arriving on DVD this week, 30 years after it first aired on television.

The words were spoken by John Lennon, an old friend of Palmer's.

"I can still hear his voice saying that," he recalls over the telephone, recalling the

struggles to make the series. Palmer — a veteran director who's made films about classical music in addition to 200 Motels, the cult classic feature starring Frank Zappa — ended up capturing dozens of musical giants at their most candid, painting an eyewitness account of the evolution of jazz, blues and pop music over the course of a long century only three-quarters finished.

"When I look at the swing episode, that was the only long interview Artie Shaw ever gave. Bing Crosby — gone within a few years. Cab Calloway, gone. Frank Sinatra, gone. Benny Goodman, gone. It was really desperate to get around these guys because I knew they had extraordinary stories to tell, and I wanted to get there be-



Director Tony Palmer spent two years of his life travelling all over the world to make *All You Need Is Love*.

fore they weren't there to tell them."

I saw the series when it aired in Canada, for the first time, on TVO, and it ended up being a major inspiration for my decision to become a music critic when I left college.

Even at the time, though, I

knew that something was missing from the final episode, which speculated on the future of pop music, and appointed as its heir apparent ... Mike Oldfield, whose 1973 prog rock opus *Tubular Bells* remains huge, though it's very much a period piece now, especially when you

consider what was happening literally on the doorstep of Palmer's editing suite.

"We were aware — we'd had the Sex Pistols running in all directions in London, and I begged EMI and Polygram to put off the finishing of the series so that we could include some of that, but they wouldn't allow me to, they said, 'You've spent quite enough money anyway and we don't know any of this stuff, it's vulgar.' So I had my knuckles rapped was told to finish it and go away.

"In retrospect it was a terrible mistake and we knew it at the time, but it wasn't our money. We couldn't do anything about it really."

The series arrives on DVD with its 17 episodes cleaned up and formatted for widescreen televisions, but

without any bonus features, a shortcoming that Palmer blames on penny-pinching by the producers.

"If I've been tempted to commit murder it's this — the film was jointly financed by EMI and Polygram. And some moron in EMI juked all the outtakes. We sat there filming, for example, two hours of our interview with Hoagy Carmichael. And you can't use all of that, so you use five or ten minutes. And the rest this idiot at EMI threw away.

"Can you believe it? This moron was actually on the same plane as us yesterday afternoon coming over to New York. I thought, shall I kill him now? And I thought I'm much too old for that. But I know he was the guy who signed it off."



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METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mel C sports new sound

Spice Girl tours Canada in support of new solo disc

By IAN NATHANSON
for Metro Calgary

Ask Melanie Chisholm whether she prefers to be a

touring Spice Girl or a touring solo artist and the answer might come as some surprise.

"The Spice Girls are so much fun — it's amazing to perform to so many people and be so high-profile. It's what dreams are made of," says the amiable 34-year-old

Brit better known as — pick one — Melanie C, Mel C or Sporty Spice.

"But my heart is in my solo work now. I get to do more of what I want to do."

Before last summer's Spice Girls reunion announcement, Melanie C reportedly hesitated at the thought of any reunion. Yet mere months after her fourth studio album, *This Time*, was issued overseas, there was Chisholm joining her former Girl Power partners Victoria Beckham (Posh Spice), Melanie Brown (Scary Spice), Emma Bunton (Baby Spice) and even Geri Halliwell (Ginger Spice) delivering news of a reunion and subsequent tour, which began in Vancouver last December and wrapped up in Toronto in late February.

ver last December and wrapped up in Toronto in late February.

"All my fears about getting back together with the girls, about how things would work out on stage ... none of those ever came about," she says. "It was frighteningly easy to slip back into those shoes. I guess because we're all so much older and had taken a step away from it, we really respect and enjoy each other more now than we ever did."

It remains a question mark whether any further Spice Girls performances will materialize. So, for now, Melanie C has downsized from the Spice Girls' arena-sized spectacle — glamorous costume changes,



Melanie C plays MacEwan Conference And Event Centre tomorrow.

dance routines and all — to just being one singer fronting a band for her tour in support of last month's North American release of *This Time*. "It's odd and does take a while to feel balanced again," Melanie C says of the adjustment. "But overall, playing so many gigs in tinier venues or in festivals makes you a better performer and you become far more confident on stage. That's always been my reason I wanted to be a solo artist."

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CBS is expected to announce today that it has ordered 22 more episodes of *The New Adventures Of Old Christine*, the two-year-old comedy that's already netted star Julia Louis-Dreyfus, left, an Emmy, according to a key insider.

EW.COM

Welcome to the TV killing fields

BRING OUT YOUR DEAD:

The current TV season is ringing down, and like any decent Shakespeare play, the stage is littered with bodies. The networks are trying to lighten the tone of this downbeat little drama by announcing new shows and renewals at the same time, but there's no denying that it's a dismal end to a dispiriting year, and that there are some people (well, just me, probably) who think that they'd do just as well to nuke their whole primetime schedules and start all over again with a kind of broadcast year zero.

ABC leads the list this year with an impressive body count, tallied up conveniently by the Los Angeles Times. There's a lot of



IDIOT BOX
RICK McGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

what you'd expect — Cavemen is gone, as is Carpoolers, Big Shots, October Road and Miss Guided. Cashmere Mafia, Women's Murder Club and Men In Trees are also among the fallen, as is — cue shock chords — Oprah's Big Give, which was dropped at the request of Oprah Winfrey herself. "We loved that show and absolutely would have loved to bring it

back," ABC entertainment president Steve McPherson told the Hollywood Reporter. "But it was something (Oprah) didn't want to do."

The network is taking Scrubs over from NBC, and says they have 17 new pilots in development for midseason launch, which promises to make September on ABC look pretty quiet, but it may turn out that other networks are going to make an equally soft start on the fall TV season. ABC's casualty list is as large as Fox and CBS combined, neither of which contain many surprises, either, except for Fox' axing of Back To You, the newsroom comedy starring Kelsey Grammar and Patricia Heaton.



The series Oprah's Big Give was dropped at the request of Oprah Winfrey herself.

distinction of being a program I've never heard of until now.

NBC has cut Las Vegas and Journeyman from its schedule, and finally confirmed that they can't rebuild Bionic Woman, and the CW has dropped Girlfriends and Aliens In America. Britney Spears' well-publicized cameos on How I Met Your Mother is apparently a big reason for the show's renewal, and among the shows reprieved for another year are titles like Boston Legal, Rules Of Engagement, The New Adventures Of Old Christine and According To Jim, which is proof of life after death, if nothing else.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera. He walked 47 miles of barbed wire and has a cobra snake for a necktie.

reality tv

Seacrest to host Momma's Boy



NEW SERIES
Mothers will get to choose brides for their sons on a new reality series from NBC and American Idol host Ryan Seacrest.

In Momma's Boy, a group of "controlling mothers," their eligible "complacent sons" and several brides-to-be live together under one roof. Some of the potential brides are "nice girls" while others, as the press release states, "might not be as appealing to the mothers."

REUTERS

| | Vu | SC | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 |
|---------|-----|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 5/14/08 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| news | 267 | 351 | 1 - ACCESS | Law Order: CI | Perfect | Simple | Supernatural | Supernanny (N) | Help TV | | |
| | 243 | 317 | 3 CFN | eTalk | Jeopardy! | CSI: NY "Taxi" | Criminal Minds | American Idol | News (N) | | |
| | - | - 4 BROAD | Broadcast News | | Broadcast News | | | | | | |
| | - | 371 | 5 KXLY | News | Entertain | Insider | Wife Swap (N) | Supernanny (N) | Boston | | |
| | - | 245 | 306 | 6 CBRT | 22 Min | Just-Gags | Mosque | 5th estate | National | The Hour | |
| | - | 244 | 338 | 7 CICT | ET | Entertain | Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) | | Fam. Guy | News | |
| | - | 246 | - 8 CKAL | Friends | Friends | Next Top Model | Rock of Love | Two Men Two Men | Your City | | |
| | - | 119 | 705 | 9 CBXFT | Des quel | L'Épicerie | La Petite Séduction | France | Le Téléjournal (SC) | TJ Albera | |
| | - | - 10 SHAW | (6) Local Programming | | | | | Local Programming | | | |
| | - | - 372 | 12 KREM | News (N) | Hollywood | Friends | Scrubs | Price Is Right | Criminal Minds | CSI: NY | |
| | - | - 374 | 14 KSPS | News-Lehre | | The Brain Fitness Program | | Change Your Brain, Change | Secrets | | |
| | - | 502 | 390 | 15 CBC | National | National | National | National | National | Neferiti | |
| | - | - 370 | 16 KHO | News (N) | Raymond | Jeopardy! | Fortune | Deal or No Deal (N) | Law-Order | | |
| | - | - 373 | 22 KAYU | 70s Show | Simpsons | Two Men | Two Men | Til Death | Back | American Idol | News (N) |
| | - | 297 | 652 | 37 WPXI | Farmer Wants a Wife | CW11 News at Ten | Fam. Guy | Two Men | Sex & City | Will-Grace | Frasier |
| | - | 500 | 509 | 29 CNN | Larry King Live | Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV) | | Larry King Live | Cooper | | |
| | - | 508 | 502 | 31 CNN | Glenn Beck | Nancy Grace | Showbiz Tonight | Glenn Beck | Grace | | |
| | - | 400 | 402 | 21 TSN | NHL Hockey: Conference Final | | SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live) | Boxing Wednesday Night Fights | | | |
| | - | 400 | 418 | 27 net | MLB Baseball: Blue Jays at Twins | | Sportsnet Connected | Sportsnet Connected | Fighter | | |
| | - | 410 | 403 | 30 SCORE | BASKETBALL: NBA Basketball: West Semifinal -- Jazz at Lakers | | Score Update | Update | | | |
| | - | 411 | 457 | 44 QLN | The Rig | Mans | Travels | Globe | Pilot Guides | Don't Forget | Ed's Up |
| | - | 417 | 406 | 48 SPEED | NASCAR All-Star '08 | Unique Whips | Pinks | Pass Time | Countdown to All-Star | All Star | |
| | - | 552 | 543 | 20 YTF | Drake | Malcolm | Prank Ptrl | Fries | Monster | Futura | Shadow |
| | - | 557 | 541 | 31 FAM | Zoey 101 | Life Derek | Smart Guy | Surf Life | Sadie | Montana | Life Derek |
| | - | 555 | 545 | 67 TON | Green | Road Run | Scooby | Futurama | Tripping | Tripping | Chicken |
| | - | 575 | 583 | 11 CMT | Reba | Hope | Home Imp. | Reba | Hope | Home Imp. | |
| | - | 553 | 546 | 17 TREE | Little Bear | Spider | Couch | Rolle Polle | Berenstain | Babar | Backyard |
| | - | - 18 | 18 CHTV | 70s Show | El News | Stunt Stars | Deal or No Deal (N) | | Quilt | Wee 3 | |
| | - | 505 | 598 | 19 TWN | EarthWatch One | EarthWatch One | EarthWatch One | EarthWatch Two | | | |
| | - | 602 | 568 | 23 W | Shopping | House | Will-Grace | Friends | Shopping | Style Jury | Cookies |
| | - | 521 | 560 | 24 TLC | Jon Kate | Jon Kate | Jon Kate | Jon Kate | Stuck | Stuck | Maxed |
| | - | 603 | 561 | 25 FOOD | Iron Chef America | Dinner | Glotton | Challenge | Iron Chef America | Dinner | |
| | - | 615 | 520 | 26 A&E | CSI: Miami | CSI: Miami | CSI: Miami | CSI: Miami | CSI: Miami | CSI: Miami | |
| | - | 617 | 522 | 32 SHOW | Trailer | Billable | ReGenesis | Da Vinci's Inquest | Trailer | Rent | Life |
| | - | 601 | 562 | 33 SLICE | Find-Husband | Trading Spouses | X-Weighted | Find-Husband | Trading | | |
| | - | 633 | 544 | 34 ENC2 | 7(15) Aliens in the Wild, Wild West | | Postcards From the Edge *** (1990) | Biloxi | | | |
| | - | 520 | 505 | 35 DISC | Dirty Jobs | Mayday (N) | Daily Planet | MythBusters | Really Big | | |
| | - | 620 | 523 | 36 BRAVO | True Meaning of Pictures | Abbas | Law & Order | | Without a Trace | Mi Vida | |
| | - | 294 | 650 | 40 WPIX | (6) Cliffhanger | | | | | | |
| | - | 626 | 547 | 41 COM | Laughs | Comedy | Air Force | 22 Min | Laughs | Fam. Guy | Seinfeld |
| | - | - 539 | 42 CMT | The Tender Trap | | | (8:15) Marriage on the Rocks ** (1965) | | Simpsons | S. Park | Black |
| | - | 628 | 584 | 43 SPIKE | UFC Unleashed | The Ultimate Fighter | Ways Die | Ways Die | CSI: Crime Sci | Voyager | |
| | - | 522 | 516 | 45 HIST | Disasters | Mastrmnd | JAG (DVS) | Inventors | Legends | Jerusalem 1948 | Crime |
| | - | 627 | 528 | 46 SPACE | Star Trek Gen. | Supernatural | Stargate SG-1 | Star Trek: Voyager | Enterprise | | |
| | - | - 47 | AMC | (6) U.S. Marshals ** (1998) | | | The Octagon ** (1980, Adventure) | | | Seven-Ups | |
| | - | 619 | 525 | 49 TRON | Inside Box | Vanity | TV Made | Ad Pers | ET | What | Seinfeld |
| | - | 600 | 564 | 50 HGTV | Property | City | Unsellable | Buy Me | House | Secrets | Potential My House |
| | - | 501 | 591 | 52 CTV | TV Newsnet | News | CTV News | News | CTV News | News | News |
| | - | 504 | 508 | 50 BNN | Squeeze Play | Market Call | Business News | Market | Workopol | Squeeze | |
| | - | 526 | 507 | 52 CLT | National Dream | Traders | The West Wing | The District | Decoding | | |
| | - | 269 | 350 | 53 RTRP | First Talk | News | Winnipeg Comedy | Chefs | Rez Rides | Northern Exposure | 500Natts |
| | - | - 94 | MCP | News | News | The Land | Daughters | Vancouver | Pop | Hola Que | |
| | - | 571 | 581 | 100 MMM | Listed | Don't Forget | Celebrity Rehab | Scott Baio | Salt Pepa | Popagan | |
| | - | 570 | 580 | 101 MM | The Shift | PunchMUCH | Punk'd | Untrue | The O.C. | Gone Wild | |
| | - | 581 | 566 | 102 MTV | The Real World | The Real World | MTV Live | The Real World | Real World | Real World | |

critics' corner

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom

Indy (Harrison Ford) is back in the 1984 sequel to "Raiders of the Lost Ark." This time, he's in search of mythical stones that are the source of a village's prosperity. Accompanying him in his quest is a pint-sized kid (Ke Huy Quan, "The Goonies") with a bad case of hero worship and a nightclub singer (Kate Capshaw) who screams at everything. Amrish Puri co-stars as the hairless leader of a blood-thirsty cult. 8 PM on CICT



Jerusalem 1948: A War From Three Sides

In 1947, all heck broke loose — well, more heck, anyway. That's when the U.N. decided to break Palestine into one Jewish state and one Arab state, with Jerusalem being an international zone. What happened instead was a bitter battle for the holy city. The siege eventually ended in 1948, and Israel became a reality. This documentary presents three views of the situation: British, Palestinian and Israeli. 3 PM on HIST

CSI: NY

Just when you thought it was safe to get back in the cab ... A man believed to be the "cabbie killer" is found dead in the new episode "Taxi." But Mac (Gary Sinise) and his team won't rest until they determine whether this is the right guy, or the real killer is still at large. Melina Kanakaredes, Carmine Giovinazzo, Hill Harper and Eddie Cahill also star. 8 PM on CFCN

celebritybuzz

Wedding bells for Cynthia?



Sex And The City: The Movie star Cynthia Nixon wants to wed her partner Christine Marinoni — because gay weddings are "rebellious," *imdb.com* reports. The actress began dating Marinoni in 2004, and rumours surfaced last month the pair would marry later this year in a low key ceremony. But Nixon, 42, admits she's never been keen on marriage in the past — although she would consider wedding Marinoni because it would be an act of rebellion. She says, "It (marriage) is something my girlfriend is interested in and it was not something my boyfriend (Danny Mozer, with whom she split after 15 years together) ever was. I think that to get married to her would be a little act of rebellion. It's like if you've never had the vote and then you get it you're going to run out there and vote. I always avoided marriage in the past and was very wary of it. I felt like it was potentially a trap. People sometimes want the party, the gifts, and the public celebration of this big love — they're excited about that rather than the life commitment. So I always stayed clear of it."

Metro News Services

— Cynthia Nixon

Beyoncé's weight gain spurs baby rumours

Beyoncé Knowles, who still won't confirm her April 4 wedding to Jay-Z, is also keeping quiet about whether or not she is pregnant, *PageSix.com* reports.

Friends of the tight-lipped newlyweds say the songbird is expecting the couple's first child. "She has gained a lot of pregnancy weight," a source said.

A rep for Knowles said, "I don't know if she's pregnant. Let me perform an ultrasound and get back to you."

Metro News Services



Tony, Jessica split?

According to *starmagazine.com*, while partying with several Eastern Illinois alumni on the weekend, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo revealed he and Jessica Simpson are on the outs, reports Chicago gossip blog *These Boots Are Made for Stalking*.

"He told us they broke up and that was that," Romo's pal told the blog.

Romo made the most of his boys' weekend — from seeing a Chicago Cubs game to boozing at local hotspots.

Metro News Services



Ashlee, Pete to tie knot on Saturday

Ashlee Simpson and Pete Wentz will wed on Saturday, according to the latest U.S. reports, says *imdb.com*. The pop couple was rumoured to be planning a ceremony for this Friday, but now *Us Weekly* magazine claims Simpson will become Mrs. Wentz on Saturday. The location, time and all other details are being kept a closely-guarded secret.

A source close to the pair tells the publication, "Proper invites have not been sent out but guests have been given a save-the-date notice." A rehearsal dinner, for "family and close friends only," will take place on Friday. The couple announced their engagement in April and Simpson is rumoured to be pregnant with her fiance's child.

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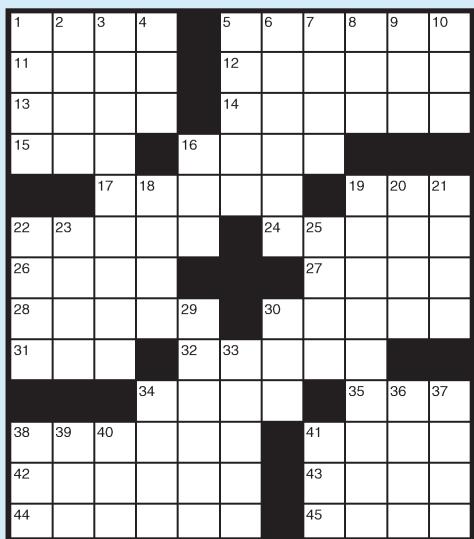
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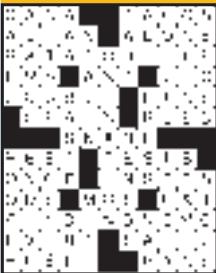
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**across »**

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|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Dagger handle | 19 Summer cooler | 34 Order to Rover |
| 5 Zhivago player | 22 Urges on | 35 Devoured |
| 11 Historic canal | 24 English county | 38 Purple swallow |
| 12 Regal home | 26 Qualified | 41 Stage action |
| 13 Field unit | 27 Fancy flower | 42 In the area |
| 14 Wore down | 28 Back biter | 43 Different |
| 15 Common title word | 30 Skirt feature | 44 Plug parts |
| 16 Vegan's no-no | 31 Toady's response | 45 Calls for |
| 17 Flock makeup | 32 Authorize | |

down »

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Miami cagers | 21 Egg setting |
| 2 St. Louis sight | 22 Rank |
| 3 Energetic folks | 23 Bassoon's kin |
| 4 Ball point? | 25 Hawaiian port |
| 5 Ignore the limit | 29 G, for one |
| 6 Pester | 30 Tissue part |
| 7 Scads | 33 Touches down |
| 8 "Gnarly!" | 34 Astonish |
| 9 Julep need | 36 Gofer's work |
| 10 Nourished | 37 Facial pair |
| 16 — Miniver" | 38 Subway aid |
| 18 Creative germ | 39 Timetable abbr. |
| 19 Computer safeguards | 40 Kanga's kid |
| 20 Opera song | 41 Shooter ammo |

previous answer**OPINIONS. RESULTS. REWARDS.**

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**STICKELERS**

By Terry Blackford

Here's a "trickledown" puzzle. The rules are simple: you merely change one letter on each line to make a new word and continue until you reach the final word. Note: More than one answer may exist.



Wednesday's Answer
3114
6/20/08

instructions »

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time »

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Under 13 minutes | Genius |
| 13-17 minutes | Scholar |
| 17-21 | Smart |
| 21-25 | Pretty good |
| More than 25 | Keep practising |

previous answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 8 |
| 5 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 2 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| 4 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| 9 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| 6 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 5 |

HOROSCOPE**ARIES** | March 21-April 20

Surprising news comes by mail. Prepare for allergies to flare up. You might think it's too late for forgiveness.

TAURUS | April 21-May 21

A senior's safety measures should be updated. Expect a price change – buy now. Do not walk through dark places by yourself.

GEMINI | May 22-June 21

A dispute will lead the way to an agreement. Look into discovering how to prosper. Refuse to be a mediator on a proposal.

CANCER | June 22-July 22

A disgraced visitor has much to say. A man causes confusion to burst out. A moody dictator limits time spent in contemplation.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 23

Others will need a lesson in compassion. Whining about chores takes up too much energy. Someone fails to show up when needed.

VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Get your emotions under control. Arrogance causes feelings of inadequacy. Get down to basics with an impractical negotiator.

LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23

Provide sanity for an oblivious person. A friend has guilt about a crisis. Better news comes about finances.

SCORPIO | Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Frankness is the best approach in a love affair. Have a nap, if you get the chance. Dreadful dreams lead to a thorny dilemma.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Look before you leap in your love life. Someone opens your eyes to a paradigm shift. Opportunities will give you a new way of life.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20

A stressful ruling will create resentment. Worry about a job can be reduced by consultation. Being fond of someone will amaze you.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Exhaustion will result if you don't let up. Less is more in a relationship. Don't stubbornly insist on following orders.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Emotional difficulties will persist if someone else calls the shots. A sweet rascal spends money like crazy.

AVATAR VENUS

This Day IN HISTORY**May 14, 1913:** New York Governor William Sulzer approves the charter for the Rockefeller Foundation, which begins operations with a \$100 million donation from John D. Rockefeller.Woolf's novel *Mrs. Dalloway* is published.**May 14, 1939:** Lina Medina becomes the world's youngest confirmed mother in medical history at the age of five.**May 14, 1925:** Virginia

Metro News Service

Calgary weather**Afternoon**Partly cloudy.
18°**Tonight**Partly cloudy.
Low 8°**Thursday**Mainly sunny.
23° / 11°**Friday**Sunny.
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| <p>New 2008 Jeep COMPASS  \$188 per month 0897123</p> | <p>New 2008 Dodge RAM TRX4  \$194 per month 0816113</p> | <p>New 2008 Jeep WRANGLER UNLIMITED  \$199 per month 0816116</p> |

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